

The Three Branches of Government



By Morgan



The government of the United States is made up of three branches. Each one has a different job with different responsibilities. The way the three branches of government came to be was when our founding fathers were concerned that there was going to be a government in which one person had too much authority or control. Therefore, they created one that did not allow this to happen. The three branches are the legislative branch; made up of congress, the House of Representatives and the senate. Also, the executive branch; with the president and vice president. There is also the judicial branch, which contains the Supreme Court.

Legislative Branch



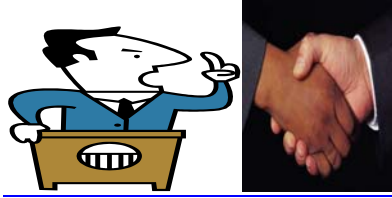
Congress has many powers like making laws, controlling trade between states and countries, and making decisions about money like borrowing and taxes. They approve the making of money and they can declare war on another country. The congress meets in Washington D.C., once every year! Congress lasts for two years, so every two years we elect a new congress. The way that the house and senate are represented, is different from congress. This is because when the founding fathers were drafting the constitution, there were debates going on and they were about how the states with the larger population wanted more representation and the states with the smaller population wanted equal. It was decided that the senate's representation would be equal, and the house would be based on population.

The senate also has many powers like deciding yes or no on treaties written by the president and saying yes or no to anyone the President recommends for jobs, such as a supreme court justice. They can also bring a government official to trial if that person has committed a crime. The senate also has certain requirements like; a member must be at least thirty years old, be a United States citizen for the past nine years and live in the state that they represent. There are two senators for each of the fifty states – a total of one hundred senators! After six years, the state decides whether to elect new senators, or keep the ones that they already have. There is no limit to a senator's term.

The house of representatives has responsibilities including laws that cause taxes, and they can decide if a government official should go on trial if they have committed a crime against their country. In order to be a representative, you must be at least twenty-five years old, be a United States citizen for the past seven years and live in the state you

represent. Representatives have terms of two years. After that, they must run again. There are 435 representatives in the house.

The Executive Branch



The President is the head of this branch. He is also chief of the Government, which makes him the boss of every government worker. Despite his power, the President cannot write any bills, but is a big part in American laws because he approves laws made by congress. First, the Senate and house approve a suggested law and then they send it to the President. If they all agree, then the law is passed. If the President doesn't agree, it doesn't happen. When the President does not want to pass the law, it is called a veto. Congress can override the veto if at least two thirds of the congressional members vote against the President. The President can meet with leaders of their countries and make treaties with them. There are rules that have to be followed in order to be President. You must be at least thirty-five years old, be a United States citizen for the past fourteen years and born in the United States. A president's term is four years. A president can only be elected twice, so the most years a president can serve is eight years. The Vice President takes over the presidency when the President is either unable to or dies in office.

The Judicial Branch



The Supreme Court is the highest court, followed by state court and then local court. About 8,000 cases are sent to court each year, but about only ninety are really accepted, because it is up to the Supreme Court to decide whether the case is taken or not. The Supreme Court is made up of nine justices. Unless they resign, retire or are impeached, justices have their term for life. The President appoints all Supreme Court justices.

Well, those are the three branches of government; their rules, powers, terms...that's it!! I hope that this essay taught you a little something about the here branches of government. And this is the way that the government in the United States!